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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/428,384	10/28/1999	STEPHEN WILLARD DICKSON	15311-2207	4583
7590	11/03/2004		EXAMINER	
IP Administration Legal Dept. Hewlett-Packard Co. M/S 35 P.O. Box 272400 Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400			LY, ANH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2162	

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/428,384	DICKSON, STEPHEN WILLARD
Examiner	Art Unit	
Anh Ly	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2004.

2a)  This action is FINAL.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on 28 October 1999 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/02/2004.

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.

5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Request Continued Examination***

1. The request filed on 08/31/2004 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 09/428,384 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.
2. Claims 38-40 have been added.
3. Claims 1-40 are pending in this application.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-40 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,634,122 issued to Loucks et al. (hereafter Loucks) in view of US Patent No. 5,506,961 issued to Carlson et al. (hereinafter Carlson).

With respect to claim 1, Loucks teaches discloses a first process that maintains a data file in a computer-readable memory (the server node or process has one or more

processors or CPU making up a processor element, which has access to volatile memory: col. 5, lines 22-24; also see col. 1, lines 50-65);

    a second process that generates a first message requesting that said second process be granted (client device/machine generating requesting token: col. 6, lines 28-35 and col. 9, lines 38-48);

    said first process generating a second message, in response to said first message, that grants said tokens to said second process if said tokens are available for grant to said second process (server device/machine generating requesting token: col. 9, lines 18-30 and lines 40-48 and col. 11, lines 18-32).

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach the first process a plurality of tokens required for said second process to modify at least one characteristic of said file stored in said computer-readable memory.

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including

server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

With respect to claim 2, Loucks teaches said first process is resident at a server computer node, and said second process is resident at a client computer node (see fig. 3 and fig. 5, client machine and server machine; col. 5, lines 7-10 and col. 7, lines 32-40).

With respect to claim 3, Loucks teaches if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant to said second process as a result of current grant of said tokens to at least one other process, said first process generates a third message revoking the current grant of said tokens to said at least one other process (abstract, col. 6, line 8-40 and col. 7, lines 52-67).

With respect to claim 4, Loucks teaches said at least one other process, in response to said third message, generates a fourth message making said tokens available for grant by said first process (abstract and col. 6, lines 8-40).

With respect to claim 5, Loucks teaches said first process resides in a first computer node; said second process resides in a second computer node; said at least one other process resides in at least one other computer node; and said first computer, second computer, and at least one other computer nodes are networked together and are remote from each other (client/server architecture network with network file system and distributing file system: see fig. 3 and 5).

With respect to claim 6, Loucks teaches a first process residing in said node that generates a first message to a second process (the server node or process has one or more processors or CPU making up a processor element, which has access to volatile memory: col. 5, lines 22-24; also see col. 1, lines 50-65; client device/machine generating requesting token: col. 6, lines 28-35 and col. 9, lines 38-48; and server device/machine generating requesting token: col. 9, lines 18-30 and lines 40-48 and col. 11, lines 18-32).

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach a set of tokens being required for the second process to be able to modify at least one characteristic of a file stored in a computer-readable memory within the computer node.

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file

sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

With respect to claims 7-9, Loucks teaches each of the processes resides in a respective one of computer nodes; one of the processes resides in a server computer node and the other of the processes resides in a client computer node; if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for grant because the at least one token is currently granted to a third process, the first process also generates a second message that revokes current grant of the at least one token to the third process prior to generating the first message the first message is generated by the first process in response to a request for the grant of the set of tokens generated by the second process (see fig. 3 and fig. 5, client machine and server machine; col. 5, lines 7-10 and col. 7, lines 32-40).

With respect to claim 10, Loucks teaches a computer node as discussed in claim 6.

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach all tokens required for the second process to be able to modify at least one characteristic of the file.

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

With respect to claim 11, Loucks teaches a first process residing in said node that generates a request to a second process (the server node or process has one or more processors or CPU making up a processor element, which has access to volatile memory: col. 5, lines 22-24; also see col. 1, lines 50-65; client device/machine generating requesting token: col. 6, lines 28-35 and col. 9, lines 38-48; and server device/machine generating requesting token: col. 9, lines 18-30 and lines 40-48 and col. 11, lines 18-32).

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach a set of tokens required

for the first process to modify at least one characteristic of a file residing in a remote computer-readable memory.

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

With respect to claim 12, Loucks teaches the second process resides in a second computer node, and the memory is comprised in said second node (see fig. 3 and fig. 5, client machine and server machine; col. 5, lines 7-10 and col. 7, lines 32-40).

With respect to claim 13, Loucks teaches a computer node as discussed in claim 11.

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach the set of tokens

comprises all tokens required for the first process to be able to modify at least one characteristic of the file.

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

With respect to claim 14, Loucks teaches a first computer node having a data file in computer-readable memory; and a second computer node that issues to the first computer node a first message requesting (the server node or process has one or more processors or CPU making up a processor element, which has access to volatile memory: col. 5, lines 22-24; also see col. 1, lines 50-65; client device/machine generating requesting token: col. 6, lines 28-35 and col. 9, lines 38-48; and server device/machine generating requesting token: col. 9, lines 18-30 and lines 40-48 and col. 11, lines 18-32).

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows

client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach a set of tokens required for the first process to modify at least one characteristic of a file residing in a remote computer-readable memory.

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

With respect to claim 15, Loucks teaches the first computer node is a server node, and the second computer node is a non-server node (see fig. 3 and fig. 5, client machine and server machine; col. 5, lines 7-10 and col. 7, lines 32-40).

With respect to claim 16, Loucks teaches a computer node as discussed in claim 14.

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows

client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach the set of tokens comprises all tokens required for the first process to be able to modify at least one characteristic of the file.

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

With respect to claim 17, Loucks teaches if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for the grant because the at least one token is currently granted, the first computer node waits to issue the first message until after the first computer node receives a third message from a third computer node indicating relinquishment of current grant of the at least one token (abstract, the server node or process has one or more processors or CPU making up a processor element, which has access to volatile memory: col. 5, lines 22-24; also see col. 1, lines 50-65; client device/machine

generating requesting token: col. 6, lines 28-35 and col. 9, lines 38-48; and server device/machine generating requesting token: col. 9, lines 18-30 and lines 40-48 and col. 11, lines 18-32).

With respect to claim 18, Loucks teaches a computer node as discussed in claim 14.

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach the at least one token comprises a plurality of tokens.

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

Claim 19 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it is directed to a computer-readable memory containing computer-executable program instructions rather than a computerized data file system, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 1 hereinabove.

Claim 20 is essentially the same as claim 6 except that it is directed to a computer-readable memory containing computer-executable program instructions rather than a computerized data file system, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 6 hereinabove.

With respect to claim 21, Loucks teaches first instructions that when executed generate a request (the server node or process has one or more processors or CPU making up a processor element, which has access to volatile memory: col. 5, lines 22-24; also see col. 1, lines 50-65).

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach a set of tokens required to enable modification by an issuer of the request of at least one characteristic of a file residing in storage memory. .

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

With respect to claims 22-26, Loucks teaches a computer-readable memory containing computer-executable program instructions as discussed in claim 21.

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach the at least one token comprises a plurality of tokens.

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of

the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

With respect to claim 27, Loucks teaches means for generating a first message requesting (the server node or process has one or more processors or CPU making up a processor element, which has access to volatile memory: col. 5, lines 22-24; also see col. 1, lines 50-65; client device/machine generating requesting token: col. 6, lines 28-35 and col. 9, lines 38-48; and server device/machine generating requesting token: col. 9, lines 18-30 and lines 40-48 and col. 11, lines 18-32).

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach a set of tokens being required for the second process to be able to modify at least one characteristic of a file stored in a computer-readable memory within the computer node.

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including

server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

With respect to claims 28-29, Loucks discloses means for generating, if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant as a result of current grant of said tokens, a third message revoking the current grant of said tokens; and means for generating, in response to said third message, a fourth message making said tokens available for grant (abstract, col. 6, line 8-40 and col. 7, lines 52-67).

Claim 30 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it is directed to a method rather than a computerized data file system, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 1 hereinabove.

Claim 31 is essentially the same as claim 3 except that it is directed to a method rather than a computerized data file system, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 3 hereinabove.

Claim 32 is essentially the same as claim 4 except that it is directed to a method rather than a computerized data file system , and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 4 hereinabove.

Claim 33 is essentially the same as claim 6 except that it is directed to a method rather than a computerized data file system, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 6 hereinabove.

Claim 34 is essentially the same as claim 9 except that it is directed to a method rather than a computerized data file system, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 9 hereinabove.

Claim 35 is essentially the same as claim 10 except that it is directed to a method rather than a computerized data file system, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 10 hereinabove.

Claim 36 is essentially the same as claim 11 except that it is directed to a method rather than a computerized data file system, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 11 hereinabove.

Claim 37 is essentially the same as claim 13 except that it is directed to a method rather than a computerized data file system, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 13 hereinabove.

With respect to claim 38, Loucks teaches a computerized data file system as discussed in claim 1.

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach said second process, in response to receiving said second message, modifies said at least one characteristic of said file stored in said computer-readable memory.

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

With respect to claim 39, Loucks teaches a computerized data file system as discussed in claim 27.

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach means for modifying said at least one characteristic of said file stored in said computer-readable memory .

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

With respect to claim 40, Loucks teaches a computerized data file system as discussed in claim 30.

Loucks teaches client/server environment including server machine, client machines, distributed file system and network file system. Network file system allows client machines to cache data from server files, for read access and write access. The server machine can be used for distributed file system. The system comprising granting, requesting and revoking tokens. Loucks does not clearly teach modifying said at least one characteristic of said file in said computer-readable in said computer-readable memory .

However, Carlson teaches a system including server device and client device and determining the type of tokens and the number of tokens sent out and distribution of token types (col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 6-10 and col. 9, lines 2-5 and lines 16-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Loucks with the teachings of Carlson by incorporating the use of a number of tokens on the system including

server machine and client machines. The motivation being to reduce the overhead of the system efficiency, the amount of congestion in the network, and enhance file sharing by adding to more effectively distribute data to clients and to more effectively control sharing of files.

### Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Anh Ly whose telephone number is (571) 272-4039 or via E-Mail: [ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV](mailto:ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV). The examiner can be reached on TUESDAY – THURSDAY from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, see the examiner's supervisor, John Breene, can be reached on (571) 272-4107.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: CENTRAL FAX CENTER (703) 872-9306

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (receptionist).

Inquiries of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

ANH LY  
OCT. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004

  
JEAN M. CORRIELUS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER